

PATRICIA V. SMITH LYME DISEASE
ASSOCIATION

MAJOR POINTS SUMMARY

1. Lyme disease is increasing in numbers and range worldwide, with CDC announcing U.S. cases are 300,000 annually. It is found in about 80 countries worldwide.
2. A government study has indicated the impact of Lyme disease on patients is as severe as disability of patients with congestive heart failure or osteoarthritis, is greater than those observed in type II diabetes or in recent myocardial infarction, and chronic pain contributing to impairment is similar to that reported by patients with osteoarthritis.
3. Other tick-borne diseases are being discovered with greater frequency and people are becoming co-infected with a number of diseases.
4. More ticks are spreading different diseases to humans.
5. My work with the Lyme Disease Association has put me in close contact with patients who are sick and have other family members with the disease, which is costly to them financially and also impacts education and family structure.
6. Children are at the highest risk of acquiring Lyme disease. They often miss long periods of school and experience cognitive difficulties, severe pain, and may attempt suicide related to their Lyme disease.
7. There is a need for HR 610 creating an advisory committee which will permit all stakeholder input, including treating physicians, patients, and advocates, to be presented to government agencies. Currently patients have no voice.
8. The Committee would ensure that all sides of the science would be factored into the decision making process.
9. Government agencies need to interact with other government agencies, each bringing different perspectives and priorities to the table.
10. Having diverse stakeholders at the table ensures all perspectives are heard to develop a comprehensive coordinated approach to tick-borne diseases, helping ensure that government funding is used widely.
11. Truth in science can be achieved through open discussion with diverse viewpoints in an independent process free from bias and conflicts of interest.

40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION
FOR FORMER VIETNAM
WAR POW MR. RAYMOND
VOHDEN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the release of U.S. Navy Captain, Raymond A. Vohden (RET) as a prisoner of war (POW) during the Vietnam War, who was one of almost 600 Americans held captive during the Vietnam War.

In April 3, 1965, Lt. Cdr. Ray Vohden was carrying out a combat mission when his A4C bomber was shot down over North Vietnam. He was captured by the North Vietnamese and held in various POW camps around Hanoi. After enduring almost eight years as a POW, he was released in February 1973.

During his time in prison, he was subjected to torture, isolation and rudimentary medical care. Telling of his strength and courage dur-

ing this ordeal, he was on crutches the entire time of his captivity. He suffered a compound fracture in his right leg as a result of being shot down. Upon his return home, he underwent several surgeries to save and repair his leg and avoid amputation.

Capt. Vohden joined the US Navy in 1953 after receiving his Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University the year before. During college, he played football and wrestled and finished his collegiate career as an all-American wrestler. His thirty-two year military career began when he earned his wings in 1954. He went on to fly fighter jets for four years and then serve as a flight instructor for three years. At the time of his capture, he was a Lieutenant Commander and Operations Officer of a jet attack squadron on the USS Hancock. After his eight years as a POW, he served three years as the head of the Pentagon's POW/MIA taskforce and three years as superintendent of the U.S. Naval Observatory before retiring in 1986.

Since then, Capt. Vohden has lived a quiet life in Virginia's 10th District, where he raised his family and has enjoyed retirement. He has stayed active with other Washington, D.C. area POWs and has helped raise awareness about the struggle endured during their captivity. In 1999, he testified before the House International Relations Committee during its investigation on the "The Cuba Program: Torturing of American POW's by Cuban Agents" and served as the senior participant in a small program which was referred to as the "Fidel Program." In addition, after years of writing, he self-published his account as a POW in 2009, entitled "A Story of the Fifth longest Held POW in US History—First POW released at Homecoming."

Capt. Vohden has lived a life of integrity and courage. He is a model of perseverance and sacrifice to whom our country is deeply indebted.

Mr. Speaker, today we should honor the 40th anniversary of his release. Please join me in thanking this American hero for his remarkable service.

IN SUPPORT OF PASSAGE OF THE
MISCELLANEOUS TARIFF BILL

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our nation's manufacturers, workers, and consumers, and urge the House to bring the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) to a vote immediately.

The MTB is critical for the competitiveness of American manufacturers. The savings from the MTB goes to support manufacturing jobs, allows for reinvestment in capital expenditures and research and development, and decreases the costs of manufacturing in the United States by providing tariff reductions on inputs that are not available domestically.

For a small to medium sized manufacturer, this savings can mean one to two manufacturing jobs.

The last MTB expired at the end of 2012, resulting in higher costs for manufacturers and harming job growth. The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) has found that the ex-

piration of the MTB will result in a \$748 million tax on manufacturing in the United States and economic losses amounting to \$1.86 billion over the next three years.

The same study estimated that passage of the MTB in 2010 supported 90,000 manufacturing jobs in the United States and increased our GDP by \$3.5 billion.

An MTB tariff suspension is not, as some have suggested, an earmark.

The process is transparent and bipartisan, with an intensive and transparent vetting process involving Congress, the USITC and other federal agencies, and industry. Any company that imports a product on which the duties have been suspended or reduced can benefit, regardless of location in the United States.

Duty suspensions help reduce costs to the entire supply chain from the manufacturer to the customer.

At a time when the American people are tired and frustrated with the lack of progress coming from their elected representatives in Congress, the MTB offers this chamber an opportunity to passage legislation that has wide bipartisan support and will increase competitiveness, create jobs, and lower prices for consumers.

This is a clear win-win for the American people and I urge the House to take up the MTB before the end of the calendar year.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARTHUR ROY
JENSEN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Arthur Roy Jensen on the day he is retiring after a remarkable career serving water customers of the Bay Area for 37 years. Art has served as the CEO of the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency since its creation ten years ago.

I had the great honor to work closely with Art on the creation of BAWSCA while I was in the California Legislature. BAWSCA is tasked with protecting the health, safety and economic well-being of water customers in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda counties who depend on the Hetch Hetchy water system.

Art, as the father of BAWSCA, he led the agency ably for 10 years. He has always been smart, strategic and exceptionally knowledgeable about water—California's gold.

Starting in 1995, Art was the General Manager of the Bay Area Water Users Association (BAWUA), BAWSCA's predecessor. In 2002, the California Legislature authorized the multi-county agency and in 2003 it was formed. BAWSCA has three goals: a reliable supply, high quality water and a fair price. Today it serves 1.7 million residents, 30,000 businesses and thousands of community organizations.

Under Art's leadership, the agency has negotiated a 25-year water supply agreement with San Francisco that saves residents in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda millions of dollars, created regional water conservation programs, brokered an agreement to share limited water supplies during droughts, and initiated a long-term reliable water supply strategy, among many other concrete results.